

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 60, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

A "spade" shaped electrode 236 is depicted in Figure 23A. The distal end of the spade shaped electrode also generally follows the outline of the rounded distal end 234 of the canister housing 220. As the spade shaped electrode 236 moves proximally along the length of the canister housing 220, the conductive surface terminates in a rounded proximal end. Similar to the thumbnail embodiment described above, the spade shaped electrode's conductive surface is generally contained within the distal end 234 of the canister housing 220. In alternate embodiments, the spade shape electrode's conductive surface may extend proximally further within the canister housing 220. In yet another spade shaped electrode [[234]] 236 embodiment, the margins of the spade shaped electrode's conductive surface refrain from following the exact rounded contour of the canister housing 220, but substantially form a spade shaped configuration.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 78, line 12, and ending on page 79, line 9, with the following amended paragraphs:

Extending distally beyond the shoulder region 232 is the distal head [[234]] 224 of the distal housing member 230. The distal head [[234]] 224 is the distal termination point of the duckbill-shaped S-ICD canister 220. The distal head [[234]] 224 includes a generally rounded end. In one embodiment, illustrated in Figure 23B, the distal head [[234]] 224 has a width greater than the width at a location within the shoulder region 232 of the distal housing member 230. In alternative embodiments, the distal head's width is equal to or less than the width at any point in the shoulder region 232 of the distal housing member 230, as illustrated in 23A.

The length of the duckbill-shaped S-ICD canister 220 may depend highly upon the shape and size of the distal housing member 230. In particular embodiments, the duckbill-shaped S-ICD canister 220 is approximately 30 centimeters long or less. In alternative embodiments, the duckbill-shaped S-ICD

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canister 220 is approximately 10 centimeter or less. In particular embodiments, the length of the duckbill-shaped S-ICD canister 220 may be curved, or alternatively, or a portion of the length (i.e., the shoulder region 232 and distal head [[234]] 224) are curved.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 80, line 11, and ending on page 81, line 10, with the following amended paragraphs:

In certain embodiments of the present invention, the electronic components (e.g., circuitry, batteries and capacitors) of the S-ICD canister 220, are generally absent from the distal housing member 230. As such, the depth of the distal housing member 230 may be greatly reduced. In these embodiments, a depth of approximately 1 millimeter may be obtained at the distal head [[234]] 224 of the duckbill-shaped S-ICD canister 220.

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The duckbill-shaped distal housing member 230 enhances navigation during canister implantation. The distal head [[234]] 224 of the distal housing member 230 is blunt at its end to reduce trauma suffered to surrounding tissue during the S-ICD canister's advancement or during chronic implantation. Similarly, the narrower distal head [[234]] 224 (width-wise and depth-wise) is easier to control during the advancement procedure. The smaller distal head [[234]] 224 also enables a physician to navigate the smaller and more compact tissues adjacent to the sternum, which a larger head might otherwise find unobtainable. Moreover, the narrower distal head [[234]] 224 may be advanced to a location in close proximity to the patient recipient's heart 218 without concern of distorting or stressing the skin in the left parasternal region.